

We have seen peace prevail in most places for a half century. We have avoided another world war.

But we have not solved older, deeply-rooted problems that continue to diminish the potential of half the world's population.

Now it is time to act on behalf of women everywhere.

If we take bold steps to better the lives of women, we will be taking bold steps to better the lives of children and families too. Families rely on mothers and wives for emotional support and care; families rely on women for labor in the home; and increasingly, families rely on women for income needed to raise healthy children and care for other relatives.

As long as discrimination and inequities remain so commonplace around the world—as long as girls and women are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled and subjected to violence in and out of their homes—the potential of the human family to create a peaceful, prosperous world will not be realized.

Let this conference be our—and the world's—call to action.

And let us heed the call so that we can create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

Thank you very much.

God's blessings on you, your work and all who will benefit from it.●

#### IT'S NOT FOR WHITE MEN TO DECIDE

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of talk about affirmative action, much of it designed to attract votes rather than to contribute any light or rational discussion.

Recently, I was on a radio discussion program with our former college, Pete Wilson, now the Governor of California. His position is one that I am sure is supported by a majority of Republicans and may be temporarily politically wise. But I do not believe it serves the Nation well.

In an appearance on the David Brinkley program, he quoted Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. It was of interest to me then to pick up the Los Angeles Times and read Arthur Schlesinger's response.

Like most things Arthur Schlesinger writes, it is loaded with good sense, and I ask that his response be printed in the RECORD.

The response follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, Aug. 3, 1995]

IT'S NOT FOR WHITE MEN TO DECIDE

(By Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.)

On Sunday, July 23, while I was befogged in Dark Harbor, Me., Gov. Pete Wilson of California seemed even more befogged on "This Week With David Brinkley." On this program, he cited me and my small book "The Disuniting of America" in support of his crusade against affirmative action. "[Schlesinger] uses a phrase," Wilson said, "that various policies are, in fact, tribalizing America, and, in fact, that is unhappily the case, and we need to end it."

Wilson is quite correct in noting my concern about the campaign by "multicultural" ideologues to promote and perpetuate separate ethnic and racial communities. But he is quite wrong in suggesting that I am, for

that reason, opposed to affirmative action. On the contrary, affirmative action has been, in my view, a valuable and potent means of moving the republic away from ethnic and racial separatism and toward a more integrated and unified society.

Before affirmative action, the labor market and the educational system were encrusted with barriers, antipathies and conditioned reflexes that systematically excluded women and non-white minorities. Affirmative action has played an indispensable role in breaking these terribly well-entrenched patterns in employment, college admission and other arenas of recruitment and upward mobility. The goal of affirmative action is precisely to destroy racial and gender barriers; and it is the free intermingling of peoples that provides that basis for a common culture and an embracing national identity.

Unquestionably, some reforms are in order. Rigid application of "diversity" standards often leads to bad results, especially in government employment. Programs carried out in the name of affirmative action, especially preferences for what purport to be minority business enterprises, have been sorely abused. Still, affirmative action in the main has served as an agency for the uniting, not the disuniting, of America.

I regard affirmative action as a transitional program. I do not expect it to become a permanent feature of the labor market. When should the transition end? It should end when our white male ruling class no longer automatically discriminates against women and against nonwhite minorities. And the decision as to when the point is reached surely belongs to those whose needs affirmative action is intended to meet.

Already some beneficiaries are growing increasingly uneasy. Affirmative action seems to cast doubt on their own credentials, competence and worth. They have become partners in the firm or professors in the university, others might think, not on their merits but because of racial or gender preference.

Affirmative action can thus become a means of undermining self-esteem and dignity. It can imply that, without affirmative action, women and minorities could not survive and compete in the world of affairs. It may carry with it a flavor of condescension and patronage. And it inevitably and understandably arouses the resentment of those who feel that affirmative action discriminates against them.

When enough beneficiaries regard affirmative action with embarrassment and discomfort, the time will have come to roll up the policy. And the more white male America practices policies of inclusion rather than exclusion, the sooner that time will come.

But until women and nonwhite minorities see affirmative action as more a handicap than a help, the case for its continuation in some form seems strong. And surely the decision about continuation is not one to be made for hapless minorities by politically ambitious white governors. Such overweening presumption by powerful white men is the true road to the disuniting of America.●

#### IN HONOR OF KITE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN WEEK

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to announce that this year the 17th annual Frank Mots Memorial Kite Festival will be held on September 16 in Milwaukee, WI. Kite flying is one of the most beautiful and relaxing hobbies around. Many of us can still remember when we were children, building our first kite and watch-

ing with excitement as it became airborne. Today children of all ages can experience this thrill again during the Kite Society of Wisconsin Week, which will take place the week of September 11-17.

Frank Mots was a kite flying enthusiast, and it was in his memory that the Kite Society of Milwaukee was created in 1976. The festival that bears his name was founded in 1978 and has drawn people from around the country every year. I invite everyone to celebrate this event on September 16 and take some time out to enjoy the simple pleasures of kite flying. The Frank Mots Memorial Kite Festival has something for everyone, and I am proud of the kite society's accomplishments.●

#### BIG MAC TO GO; HOLD THE LIES

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the most thoughtful observers in the Nation today is Felix Rohatyn, an investment banker, who has had considerable leadership experience at both the local, State, and Federal levels.

He was chairman of New York's Municipal Assistance Corp., from 1975 to 1993 and helped put the pieces together when New York City was in such desperate straits.

He had an article recently in the Washington Post that comments specifically about the District of Columbia and New York City, but it is really much more than that. He is really talking about what our priorities are as a Nation and what we must do to revitalize urban American and revitalize the Nation.

To the timid souls in the House and Senate and the administration who are afraid to face our problems and come up with realistic answers to those problems, because realistic answers are not going to be immediately popular, I would note his comment:

Many of our actions were deemed to be political suicide when first considered, but it is worth noting that Governor Carey's approval rating was the highest ever in December 1975 when we had carried out the most painful parts of the restructuring.

The American public yearns for genuine leadership, not public relations talk. Instead to much too great a degree, we are providing the public relations talk but not genuine leadership.

I ask that the Felix Rohatyn article be printed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it.

The article follows:

BIG MAC TO GO; HOLD THE LIES; NEW YORK'S RECIPE FOR RECOVERY—AND WHAT D.C. CAN TAKE FROM IT

(By Felix Rohatyn)

Watching the evolution of the District of Columbia's fiscal crisis inevitably brings to many of us here in New York City memories of our own brush with bankruptcy in the 1970s. There are too many differences between our situation 20 years ago and the District's today to draw direct parallels. Still, there are lessons in our successes—and in our failures—that may provide some useful insights to those trying to direct the District's future.